

SHOOTING OFF A MAN'S HAT.

A MAN NOW LYING IN A HOSPITAL WITH A BULLET IN HIS HEAD.

What Came of Barstender Westfield's Fondness for Showing his Expertness with a Rifle—The Man Unwary that he was Hit.

Under Johnson's Brooklyn Bridge Hotel, 48 Chatham street, is a barroom, very long and low, and containing several billiard tables. Against the wall on one side are targets for rifle and pistol shooting. The barroom is open all night, and the cracking of firearms is often heard before daylight, though, for the most part, the shooting is allowed only in the day.

Charles Westfield, the night bartender, is a German, 46 years of age and married. He lived with his wife at 125 Monroe street, and has the reputation of being ordinarily a sober, industrious man. By constant practice he became an expert marksman, both with rifle and pistol, and was fond of showing his skill to the frequenters of the place. Lately he has been in the dangerous game of shooting apples and other objects off the heads of all who were reckless enough to risk standing for him. His friends warned him repeatedly against this perilous experiment, but as his skill increased his confidence in his own powers tempted him too soon to be resisted, and when he could not otherwise get a customer to stand for him he offered a drink to any one who would take the part of a dangle, and on these terms he had no difficulty in getting men to risk their lives.

Very early yesterday morning when Westfield took his place behind the bar it was evident to the few customers who were in the saloon that he had been drinking freely. He offered to shoot a match with any man present, and tried to get one of his customers to place a lemon on his head and allow him to shoot at it. But when his companion was apparent, he failed to induce any one to risk his life in the manner proposed.

"Oh, put down the rifle, and sit down," said one of the frequenters of the saloon. "I don't know you can do it, but I want to see you try it now." Your hand is too steady," said another. Finally Westfield put the rifle down and attended to his business for a couple of hours. At about 6 o'clock six or seven old customers entered the saloon, and among them was Gustav Warganz of 226 William street, a German, 37 years of age, who was somewhat intoxicated. Westfield served the six old drinks, and they sat at a table about twenty feet from the bar, where Warganz soon fell asleep. His back toward Westfield, and he was dozing off, when forward, and recovered himself with a sudden motion that startled the bartender. He looked at his head, his companions laughed, and Westfield, grasping the rifle, said:

"I'll take off your hat with a bullet in it." Nobody spoke, for the rifle was at the marksman's shoulder, and a word might have started his aim. He fired, and the bullet struck Warganz's head, just above the ear, and a sharp report rang through the saloon. At that instant the sleeping man's head jerked up, and he looked at the marksman. He saw the rifle, and the bartender, dropping the stock of the rifle to the floor, looked steadily to the head of his shot. The low hat spun off Warganz's head, and starting to his feet, he said:

"Everybody laughed, for the hat, with a bullet hole in it, was lying on the floor, and the man looked at the marksman. He saw the rifle, and the bartender, dropping the stock of the rifle to the floor, looked steadily to the head of his shot. The low hat spun off Warganz's head, and starting to his feet, he said:

Warganz grew deadly pale, and would have fallen, but his friends supported him. They rushed him to the hospital, and he was taken to the New York Hospital, where he arrived in a very weak state. The bullet had entered his head, and he was in a very weak state. The bullet had entered his head, and he was in a very weak state.

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